

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 1763
Attorney Docket No. 108298717US
Disclosure No. 03-0119.00/US

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 453 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit adapted to deliver a first process gas flow, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member and a second gas delivery conduit carried by the second longitudinally extending member, the second gas delivery conduit being adapted to deliver a second process gas flow that is independent of the first process gas flow.

6. (Currently Amended) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 453 wherein the gas delivery conduit comprises an internal lumen of the longitudinal member.

7. (Currently Amended) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 453 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit that comprises an internal lumen of the first longitudinal member, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member having an internal lumen that defines a second gas delivery conduit.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 453 further comprising a process gas supply conduit releasably coupled to the inlet of the gas delivery conduit.

10. (Currently Amended) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 453 wherein the each of first and second outlets of the gas delivery conduit is positioned to direct a process

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gas flow inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

11-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A microfeature workpiece holder adapted to hold a plurality of microfeature workpieces, comprising:

a first member having a plurality of first workpiece supports spaced along a length of the first member, a plurality of outlets spaced along the length of the first member, and an internal lumen internal to the first member and coupling an inlet to each of the outlets, wherein each of the outlets is disposed between two adjacent workpiece supports;

a second member having a plurality of second workpiece supports spaced along a length of the second member, each of the second workpiece supports being positioned relative to one of the first workpiece supports to cooperatively support a workpiece;

and at least one cross-member joined to the first and second members.

23. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 wherein each of the first and second workpiece supports comprises a slot adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

24. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 wherein the second member includes a plurality of second member outlets spaced along a length of the second member, and an internal lumen coupling a second member inlet to each of the a second member outlets.

25. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 further comprising a process gas supply conduit releasably coupled to the inlet.

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26. (Original) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 22 wherein the each of the outlets is positioned to direct a process gas flow inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

27-37. (Canceled)

38. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A microfeature workpiece processing system, comprising:

an enclosure defining a process chamber;

a removable microfeature workpiece holder disposed in the processing chamber, the microfeature workpiece holder including:

a longitudinally extending member having a plurality of workpiece supports spaced longitudinally along a length of the longitudinally extending member, the workpiece supports being adapted to support the plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship for processing; and

a longitudinally extending gas delivery conduit carried by internal to the longitudinally extending member and having an inlet, a first outlet, and a second outlet spaced longitudinally from the first outlet, the first outlet being positioned to direct a process gas flow intermediate a first pair of the workpiece supports, the second outlet being positioned to direct a process gas flow intermediate a second pair of the workpiece supports; and

a process gas supply conduit coupled to the inlet of the gas distributor of the microfeature workpiece holder.

39. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38 wherein each of the workpiece supports comprises a slot in the longitudinally extending member adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

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40. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit, and wherein the microfeature workpiece holder further comprises a second longitudinally extending member and a second gas delivery conduit carried by the second longitudinally extending member.

41. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38 wherein the gas delivery conduit comprises an internal lumen of the longitudinal member.

42. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38 wherein the gas delivery conduit is formed separately from the longitudinal member and a length of the gas delivery conduit extends alongside a length of the longitudinal member.

43. (Withdrawn) The microfeature workpiece processing system of claim 38 wherein the each of first and second outlets of the gas delivery conduit is positioned to direct a process gas flow inwardly toward a center of one of the plurality of microfeature workpieces when the microfeature workpieces are loaded in the microfeature workpiece holder.

44-52. (Canceled).

53. (Previously presented) A microfeature workpiece holder adapted to hold a plurality of microfeature workpieces for chemical processing, comprising:

a longitudinally extending member having a plurality of workpiece supports spaced longitudinally along a length of the longitudinally extending member, the workpiece supports being adapted to support the plurality of microfeature workpieces in a spaced-apart relationship for processing; and

a longitudinally extending gas delivery conduit internal to the longitudinally extending member and having an inlet, a first outlet, and a second outlet spaced longitudinally from the first outlet, the first outlet being positioned to transversely flow a process gas intermediate a first pair of the workpiece supports, the second

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outlet being positioned to flow a process gas transversely flow intermediate a second pair of the workpiece supports.

54. (Previously presented) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 53 wherein each of the workpiece supports comprises a slot in the longitudinally extending member adapted to receive an edge portion of one of the microfeature workpieces.

55. (Previously presented) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 53 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member that includes a plurality of workpiece supports, each of the workpiece supports of the second longitudinally extending member being positioned relative to a workpiece support of the first longitudinally extending member to cooperatively support one of the microfeature workpieces.

56. (Previously presented) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 53 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member and a second gas delivery conduit internal to the second longitudinally extending member.

57. (Currently Amended) The microfeature workpiece holder of claim 453 wherein the longitudinally extending member is a first longitudinally extending member and the gas delivery conduit is a first gas delivery conduit that comprises an internal lumen of the first longitudinal member, further comprising a second longitudinally extending member having an internal lumen that defines a second gas delivery conduit.